

Hillsboro Sustainability Task Force

Meeting Notes – Meeting #10: Finalize project and policy approach; review draft report; updates and next steps

(1-6-15)

Welcome

- Chair Ted Vacek and thanked the group for all their hard work to-date, resulting in today's presentation of the draft plan.
- Ted reminded the group that there's no exact model for building a sustainability plan, and that it can evolve over time.
- He said he hoped to have the report complete and presented to Council in the next several months following outreach to prospective implementation partners.
- He also shared that the Hillsboro Environmental Sustainability Plan would serve as a stand-alone document, but still be linked and referred to the broader Hillsboro 2035 Community Vision Plan.

Projects and Policies

- Peter Brandom and Jason Robertson asked the team to review and make final recommendations regarding proposed projects and policies. Suggestions included:
 - Incorporating PGE "energy tracker" action as the utility is already doing work in that area
 - Removing energy conservation "demonstration projects"/keeping "community education" – easier to implement that way
 - Adding reference to the Community Solar Program
 - Adding reference to Sustainable Food Production and Education at PCC Rock Creek
 - Combining several of the indicators related to community and vehicle travel
 - Placing "EPA Smart Way" in the idea bank until more information is available
 - Adding SOLVE as a partner in the "stream miles preserved" action
 - Following up with Salmon Safe (potentially through CWS) to learn more about "golf course eco-certification"
 - Adding CWS/Fern Hill as partners on the "bird diversity monitoring" action
 - Removing "rebates" from the project list given lack of identified partner
 - Combining "Recycle at Work" and "Eco Biz" as exemplar projects to promote under recycling
 - Removing CWS "use reduction" from action list – achieve same goal through water action
 - Incorporation "opt-out promotion" with Washington County as potential lead partner
 - Removing "mandatory source separation" action due to un-enforceability and the fact that market forces are driving most contractors in that direction as-is
 - Removing "required recovery plans" for same reason above (though the action to "incent" such behavior remains)
 - Incorporating the CWS "anaerobic digester" action
 - Incorporating "creation of energy, fertilizer or biogas at water or wastewater treatment plants" action
 - Adding "by natural systems" to indicator for % of water treated before entering streams
 - Incorporating the Sustainability Awards Program (and running through WA. Co. for time being)

Draft Plan

- Jason Robertson and Peter Brandom presented the draft plan and asked for input regarding content and format. Feedback included:
 - Overall support for both format and content
 - Cover is beautiful, but perhaps too dark
 - Suggested adding more local information for sectional “factoids”
 - Task Force approval of proposed implementation structure
 - Task Force willingness to continue serving in an oversight and coordination capacity
- Members were encouraged to submit photos and “factoids” for incorporation into updated draft report.

Members Corner

- Peter Brandom provided a brief update regarding recent air quality issues in Washington County.
 - The region has exceeded EPA/DEQ air quality thresholds on several occasions and corrective action is likely necessary
 - Multiple agencies are meeting to discuss strategies and approaches
 - Additional information should be available soon